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Message Text

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42
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 A-01 RSC-01 SSO-00 /014 W
---------- 077276
P R 041512Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9477
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS NIAMEY 4157

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EX GREGORY KRYZA

LAGOS FOR WACASC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ATRN, AFSP, NG

REF: AL. LAGOS 11013; B. NIAMEY 4146

1. WE RECOGNIZE IT'S ROUGH ALL OVER BUT NEWS IN REF A
THAT OUR WACASC SHIPMENT THIS MONTH CANNOT EXCEED 12,500
POUNDS COMES AS VERY SERIOUS BLOW TO EMBASSY AND REALLY
HURTS. IT ALSO HAS CRIPPLING EFFECT ON EMBASSY'S
EFFICIENCY AND HANDICAPS OUR EFFORTS TO GET READY FOR
PERSONNEL STARTING TO ARRIVE IN JANUARY FOR AID BUILDUP.

2. AS REQUESTED IN REF A, WE HAVE ADVISED WACASC OF OUR
PRIORITIES BUT WE DESPERATELY NEED BALANCE OF SHIPMENT
INCLUDING CARS, HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND
EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES. WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF EVERYTHING
AND THERE COMES A TIME WHEN WE CAN NO LONGER IMPROVISE
OR AFFORD LOUSY SUBSTITUTES ON LOCAL
MARKET.

3. THIS DEVELOPMENT COMING ON TOP OF LONG SERIES OF
FRUSTRATING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LACK OF DOCTOR, TRAUMATIC
MEDEVAC EXPERIENCE LAST WEEK, PERSONAL INCONVENIENCE
AND FINANCIAL LOSS CAUSED BY FRENCH MAIL STRIKE, WHICH HEIGHTENED
SENSE OF ISOLATION AND CAUSED DELAYS IN ARRIVAL OF
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FUNDS, CHECKS, ETC., DAILY STRUGGLE TO COPE WITH BREAKDOWNS

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OF EQUIPMENT AND CARS WITH NO RELIEF AND NO AID GSO IN SIGHT
ARE CREATING EXTREMELY SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEMS AT THIS
POST. THINGS WOULD LOOK BRIGHTER FOR MANY PEOPLE HERE
BEFORE CHRISTMAS IF WACASC COULD MOVE OUR
BACKLOG OF SUPPLIES, POVS, HHES, ETC TO US.
ISN'T THERE SOME WAY THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS COULD BE MADE
AVAILABLE TO AUTHORIZE SECOND FLIGHT TO NIAMEY BEFORE
CHRISTMAS? ALTERNATIVE IS TRUCK CONVOY BUT THIS
PROBABLY POSES SERIOUS LOGISTICALPROBLEMS AND WE WOULD
PREFER NOT TO UNDERTAKE IT.

4. WE STRESS IN ALL THIS THAT FOREGOING IS IN NO WAY
A COMPLAINT ABOUT WACASC OR REFLECTION OF ITS SERVICES.
IT HAS PERFORMED SUPERBLY FOR US IN SPITE OF ITS
BUDGETARY AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS.

5. IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS IN AF/EX?HECK

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